

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed December 14, 2006, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the present application has been amended in a manner which is believed to place it into condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding Office Action and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present Amendment overcomes the rejection of claims 24, 26, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over *Raines*. The applied reference fails to teach or suggest the step of taking quantitative pulse volume measurements at a plurality of positions on the patient's limbs *through signal averaging* or the step of, from the quantitative pulse volume measurements, detecting the peripheral vascular disease *by calculating a pulse volume x heart rate product for each of the patient's limbs*.

The Applicants further submit that the above renders moot the rejection of claims 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

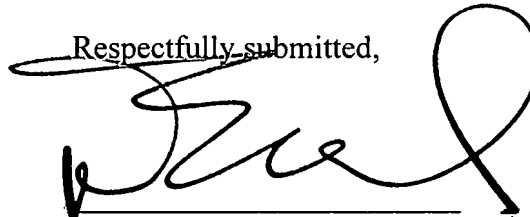
Finally, the Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 58-61 are allowable for the same reasons as set forth above. The newly added claims are similar enough to the elected claims that they should be examined together.

In light of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

If there remain any issues that can be overcome most easily through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment thereof, to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (117622-00102). If an extension of time is required to render this submission timely and either is not filed concurrently herewith or is insufficient to render this submission timely, the Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for such an extension for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Edmondson', written over a horizontal line.

David Edmondson
Registration No. 35,126

BLANK ROME LLP
Watergate 600, Suite 1100
600 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
Tel.: (202) 772-5800 (phone)
Fax: (202) 772-5858 (facsimile)